

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022



CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION

*Saving a National Treasure*

# Forging Our Future

# Forging Our Future

The future of the Chesapeake Bay begins in a farm field. It begins in a classroom. It begins in church parking lots and in courtrooms. It begins with decisions and actions both large and small. Will a farmer plant trees along a stream? Will an administrator support teachers who want students to learn outside? Will a congregation decide to keep a paved parking lot or turn it into an urban forest? Will a developer be held accountable to the laws that protect our forests and waters?

The future begins in these places and a thousand more, and it begins with you. In the past year, your support gave farmers the opportunity to choose conservation alongside profitability. It allowed thousands of teachers and students to get away from their desks and immerse

themselves in explorations of rivers, streams, and wetlands. It gave voice to communities seeking to protect forests near their homes. It helped ecosystems long in decline thrive again. And it kept unrelenting pressure on the agencies, elected officials, and businesses that are accountable for reducing pollution.

The scale of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is at times unfathomable. The vast tidal expanses of the Eastern Shore and the rocky slopes of a verdant hemlock forest in Appalachia can seem worlds—not just miles—apart. Only together can we create a better future for this massive landscape, the 18 million of us who share it, and the waters that connect us all.

Thank you for all you do to make this work possible.



DAWN SAGERT

Only together can we create a better future for all of us connected by the Chesapeake Bay.



# A message from our President and Chair

How do we get big things done? A healthy, resilient Chesapeake Bay watershed depends on our ability to make big, structural changes—the kind that won't just reduce pollution in the short term, but also sustain those reductions over the long term.

This year we saw those type of changes take root across the watershed. Trees planted in south Richmond will shade communities and improve water quality for years to come. A precedent-setting legal win will help protect water-filtering forests across Maryland. And in Pennsylvania, the keystone of the entire Bay restoration effort, multiple advocacy wins laid the groundwork for accelerated, lasting progress toward clean water.

First and foremost was the establishment of Pennsylvania's new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program, the culmination of years of work with our partners. The program begins to give Pennsylvania farmers the technical and financial assistance needed to ramp up conservation efforts at scale. At the same time, CBF continues to work one-on-one with individual farmers to implement effective conservation practices on their land.

We also successfully joined with education advocates to reverse the proposed removal of state education standards that provide Pennsylvania students the opportunity to learn environmental and agricultural sciences—another structural win that will help create a long-term culture of environmental stewardship.

All of this happened against the backdrop of our legal challenge against the Environmental Protection Agency. The suit kept pressure on both the agency and state leaders to make the significant policy changes and investments necessary to get restoration on track.

By combining on-the-ground restoration and high-quality environmental education with determined advocacy and accountability measures, we can make the big changes we need to create a watershed that is not only clean, but resilient to challenges like climate change and population growth.

Without you, none of this is possible. The vital investments in clean water, our communities, and our future simply wouldn't happen. Our work is not done by a longshot. But thanks to people like you who recognize that the Bay and its rivers and streams are the very fabric of our communities, we are confident that *together*, we will save the Bay—and keep it saved.



*Elizabeth Oliver-Farrow*

Elizabeth Oliver-Farrow  
Chair



*Hilary Falk*

Hilary Harp Falk  
President and CEO

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# Outside Again

Wading knee-deep in the Patapsco River, 13 high school students comb the rocky riverbed for strange and marvelous bugs. They pull fearsome hellgrammites and translucent crayfish from its depths. These macro-invertebrates offer clues about the river's health—so, too, do the piles of thick logs and rocks tossed on its banks.

"What do you think put those logs there?" asks Jocelyn Tuttle, part of the CBF Education team

leading a week-long exploration of the connections between climate change, water quality, and communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

"Storms?" answers a student.

Storms. Big ones. Downstream, the students explore the historic mill town of Ellicott City, Maryland, where deadly flash floods swept through the streets twice in the past six years. Some storefronts are still



**"There's a lot of value in students being able to take their time and explore and observe. Those are the biggest parts of being a scientist."**

Erin Giebner, Science Teacher, Charlottesville High School





KENNY FLETCHER/CBF STAFF

boarded up, and signs mark escape routes to higher ground.

"I took an environmental science course my junior year and we talked a lot about climate change," says Jake Sobltka, a student at Northern High School in Maryland. "It's definitely cooler to learn about it somewhere you can actually see it."

After more than a year of remote and hybrid programming, donors to CBF's education programs helped over 18,000 educators, students, and adults get back into the field this year. For some of the students, it's their first time on a boat, their first time

camping overnight, or their first time out on a canoe in a marsh.

These immersive learning experiences are crucial—two-thirds of educators and 72 percent of students said they've been fatigued by technology use during the pandemic, according to a December 2021 *Education Week* survey.

"Outside is better," says Kai Clarke-Peters, a student at Charlottesville High School in Virginia. "I need to feel. I need to see. I need to touch. It's not the same if I'm just sitting there looking at pictures on Google."

### **CBF is grateful for the generous support of:**

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Joan P. Brock  
The Elisabeth Reed Carter Charitable Lead Trust  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Randolph Hutcheson  
Greg & Elizabeth McCrickard  
Charles H. Miller  
The Morningstar Foundation  
National Geographic Society  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Bay Watershed Education & Training  
Veverka Family Foundation

# Farming for the Bay

On a small workboat in the Chesapeake Bay, farmers from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia find themselves hundreds of miles from home, baiting crab pots, examining oysters, and talking with the men and women who make their living from the Bay's waters.

"Watermen down here are kind of like the farmers of the water," says Roger Houser, a farmer from Page

County, Virginia. "Water quality is very important to their livelihood, and taking care of the land is very important to us up in the valley."

Houser is one of a number of farmers visiting with watermen as part of CBF's Farmers to the Bay program. For more than a decade, CBF has organized these trips to connect farmers with the Bay and the people who depend on it.



**"The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program puts decision making in the hands of the people who know best which conservation practices would have the most benefit in their communities: local farmers and conservation leaders. This locally focused approach will help ensure that our state's investments in water quality will be as effective as possible."**

**Rick Ebert, President, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau**





WILL PARSON/CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

More than 90 percent of the remaining pollution reductions needed to clean the Bay will rely on farmers implementing voluntary conservation practices on their land, especially in Pennsylvania.

But even as more farmers are eager to do the right thing, many can't afford to make changes alone.

"Frankly, I can't place conservation above paying my mortgage and paying the bank my loan fees," says Greg Strayer, a beef farmer in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

Thanks to years of advocacy work led by CBF and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, farmers won't have to choose. This year, Pennsylvania established the Agricultural

Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and funded it with \$154 million to help farmers implement conservation practices on their land. It's an investment that will pay dividends for clean water both locally and downstream in the Bay.

"Pennsylvania farmers have shown they are willing to invest their time, land, and limited funds to clean and protect local rivers and streams," says Bill Chain, CBF Interim Director and Senior Agriculture Program Manager in Pennsylvania. "The landmark investments in this budget will give them added resources to reduce polluted runoff, increase farm sustainability, and get the Commonwealth back on track."

**CBF is grateful for the generous support of:**

The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment

Richard King Mellon Foundation

Northeast Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Seip Family Foundation

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



# Fighting for Forests

In Abingdon Woods, a forest near the shores of Maryland's Bush River, old-growth behemoths called "specimen trees" are so large you can't wrap your arms around the trunk.

But in 2019 a developer received approval for a plan to clear about 220 acres of Abingdon Woods, including 49 specimen trees, to build warehouses. Local residents raised alarms that the plan violated

state laws meant to protect forests, and joined a lawsuit as co-plaintiffs with CBF. But they found frustration when a judge initially ruled they had no right to challenge it.

"There's nothing you can do, and that in and of itself is frustrating," says Beth Shepard, who lives next to the development and is among the community members challenging the forest clearing. "You just



**"When I first saw that machinery back there, I stood on my deck and had tears rolling down my eyes. I want to make sure that when woods are being destroyed, that developers are made to follow the law."**

Beth Shepard, Harford County resident and co-plaintiff in CBF case challenging Abingdon Woods forest clearing





AJ METCALF/CBF STAFF

have to watch it happen and listen to it happen, and you've got your hands tied behind your back."

After months of legal hearings, CBF and the residents won a victory when the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled that communities can indeed challenge plans for development projects that don't follow forest conservation laws.

It was too late to save all the trees at Abingdon Woods, which the developer began cutting despite the ongoing legal challenge. But the ruling did allow CBF to secure an injunction stopping any further clearing while the case proceeds. Moreover, it set a precedent that will help protect forests statewide, which are critical for filtering out water pollution, providing

wildlife habitat, and capturing the carbon that contributes to climate change.

"We're not living on the frontier," says Paul Smail, CBF Director of Litigation, who argued the case. "We can't continue to cut down forests with impunity in the name of 'development' and not expect adverse consequences to our quality of life."

CBF continues to pursue legal challenges that protect local resources and have an impact watershed-wide. These include efforts to reduce sewage overflows near Richmond, Virginia, and a challenge to stormwater permits in Baltimore, Maryland, that fail to address pollution and chronic flooding exacerbated by climate change.

### **CBF is grateful for the generous support of:**

The Helena Foundation  
Kentfields Foundation  
H.F. Lenfest Fund of Vanguard Charitable  
George & Miriam Martin Foundation  
Jean T. and Heyward G. Pelham Foundation  
Richard T. Pelham  
Lynn & Philip Rauch  
Wells Fargo Foundation



# Oysters Thrive

PEYTON MOWERY/CBF STAFF

On a winter morning, CBF oyster restoration specialists don muck boots and waders and walk out to the Knitting Mill Creek reef at low tide. They lay down a square metal frame and count the oysters growing within.

“A successful reef has to have 50 oysters per square meter,” says Julie Luecke, CBF’s Virginia Oyster

Restoration Specialist. “We have well exceeded that by over five times.”

In fact, on this restoration reef in Virginia’s Lafayette River, they find 253 oysters per square meter, making the reef home to an estimated 700,000 oysters. With each adult oyster capable of filtering up to 50 gallons of water a day, that’s a significant amount of water-cleaning power.



**“The oyster restoration effort in the Lafayette River is a model for the nation on how to get diverse partners across the community to fully restore oyster habitat back to an urban river.”**

Joe Rieger, Elizabeth River Project Deputy Director of Restoration





KENNY FLETCHER/CBF STAFF

Oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay remain at a fraction of their historic levels, to the detriment of both water quality and habitat. To help oysters recover, CBF founded the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance (COA) with the ambitious goal to add 10 billion oysters to the Bay and its rivers by 2025. COA grew this year to include over 85 partners representing oyster growers, nonprofits, businesses, and academic institutions.

The Lafayette River is a bright spot that will help reach those goals. In 2018, CBF, the Elizabeth River Project, and partners

completed building 32 acres of restoration reefs in the river, which lies entirely within the Norfolk city limits. The reefs are now a thriving habitat to blue crabs, brown shrimp, stingrays, seahorses, and squid.

“The Lafayette River was once a very polluted urban waterway, and there was a lot of skepticism that oysters could really make a comeback here,” says Luecke. “The success of this reef shows what is possible for restoration. It’s in the middle of a major city, but it exceeded all of our expectations and is filled with aquatic life.”

**CBF is grateful for the generous support of:**

Bleakhorn Foundation  
The Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation  
Deering Family Foundation  
France-Merrick Foundation  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fisheries Service  
Raymond C. & Jeanne K. Roberts  
Stephen M. Wolf



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## EDUCATE

Environmental educators and CBF advocates helped successfully protect environmental literacy requirements in Pennsylvania's state education standards, which the Board of Education had proposed cutting.

CBF's Macon and Joan Brock Classroom marked its first graduating class of high school students in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Environmental Studies Program, a unique partnership that immerses students in two years of hands-on environmental learning, research, and restoration.

CBF's Outdoor Learning Network Initiative launched a new partnership connecting teachers and students from Baltimore City Public Schools with local conservation partners. CBF works with and trains partners to incorporate our model of award-winning environmental education into their own programs, expanding the reach of outdoor education across the watershed.



KYLE LAFERRIERE

## LITIGATE

Together with our partners, CBF continued our ongoing lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to hold Pennsylvania accountable for its insufficient plan to meet cleanup requirements by 2025.

Valley Proteins, a chicken rendering plant on Maryland's Eastern Shore that violated wastewater pollution limits for years, is required to upgrade equipment, pay significant fines, and investigate groundwater at the site after CBF and our partners secured a consent order.



SAMUEL SHOGE



**Expanded access to environmental literacy and outdoor learning programs, new laws that will help tackle climate change and mitigate its effects on the watershed, and an unprecedented influx of state and federal funding that will put more resources in the hands of farmers and communities for on-the-ground restoration projects—CBF supporters and advocates made it all possible this year.**

## ADVOCATE

CBF's advocacy and testimony helped pass the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act, one of the boldest climate policies in the country, which sets the state on the path to net-zero emissions by 2045 and will support tree-planting and other efforts that have co-benefits for water quality.

Thousands of public comments and advocacy from CBF supporters helped secure updates to the coastwide management plan for striped bass that are crucial to improve the health of the population in the Chesapeake region.

CBF's advocacy in Virginia helped secure unprecedented investments in the state budget that are vital for meeting its clean-water commitments, as well as the passage of critical legislation to implement the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan to help the state tackle climate change and mitigate flooding.



ISTOCK

## RESTORE

At the request of senators Ben Cardin (MD) and Bob Casey (PA), the federal government committed over \$3 million in funding for two watershed restoration plans in Pennsylvania developed by CBF in partnership with over 70 partners. It was among an unprecedented influx of federal funding to key Bay programs this year.

The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership planted its five-millionth tree in Pennsylvania this year. The trees will help reduce water pollution and store significant amounts of carbon.

A collaborative project of CBF and Chesapeake Oyster Alliance partners, the Solar Oyster project is an innovative way to grow oysters on a floating platform powered by the sun. It launched with 300,000 oysters on board that will eventually be placed on sanctuary reefs in Baltimore Harbor.



AJ METCALF/CBF STAFF

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## UNAUDITED FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR FY22

CBF's management practices ensure that operating and capital campaign funds raised in the current year, as well as campaign funds pledged in previous years, are effectively put to use to support programs to save the Bay.

### Support and Revenue

Membership Contributions.....	6,156,937
Grants & Gifts.....	22,694,141
Education Contracts & Tuition.....	258,810
Investment Distribution.....	3,868,616
Donated Goods & Services.....	298,101
Other.....	1,196,293
Revenue for the Current Year.....	34,472,898

### Expenses

Program Services.....	25,107,258
Environmental Education	7,048,792
Environmental Protection & Restoration	14,749,135
Strategic Communications	3,309,331
Support Services.....	6,956,614
General & Administrative	2,656,442
Fundraising	4,300,172
Total Expenses.....	32,063,872
Change in Net Assets Before Capital Additions.....	2,409,026*
Capital Additions.....	(12,022,663)
Change in Net Assets.....	(9,613,637)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year.....	130,856,118
Net Assets, End of Year.....	121,242,480

A copy of the audited financial statement & IRS Form 990 is available at [cbf.org](http://cbf.org) or by calling 888-SAVEBAY.

\*\$2,932,254 is related to Making History Campaign and future expenditures.

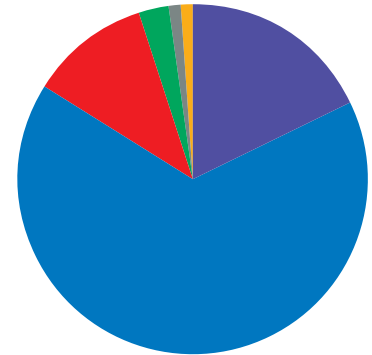


GuideStar Exchange Platinum  
Participation Level



America's Best Charities  
Seal of Excellence

CBF also meets  
all the BBB Wise  
Giving Alliance's  
Standards for Charity  
Accountability.



### REVENUE

18% Membership  
Contributions

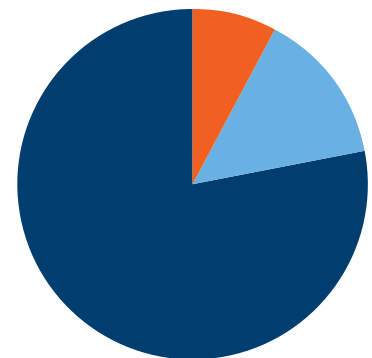
66% Grants & Gifts

1% Education  
Contracts & Tuition

11% Investment  
Distribution

1% Donated Goods  
& Services

3% Other



### EXPENSES

78% Program Services

8% General &  
Administrative

14% Fundraising





## CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Saving a National Treasure*

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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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804-780-1392

Brock Environmental Center  
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Virginia Beach, VA 23455

### Washington, D.C.

202-544-2232

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OUR MISSION: Save the Bay™ and keep it saved, as defined by reaching a 70 on CBF's Health Index.